

FY 2009 EQIP Watershed Initiative Proposal

The State Conservationist will be holding a reserve of EQIP funds for the FOs that are selected for additional financial assistance, to address more serious resource concerns within a local watershed. The watershed should not be the entire FO service area, but a small area where an additional effort over a one to three year period can result in a measurable improvement. Because we anticipate receiving more proposals and requests for funds than will be available there must be a process for reviewing/evaluating the proposals. (Preference will be given to those watershed initiative proposals approved for funding last year as the STC has given a commitment for funding up to three years). Please provide information as requested below*.

1. Field Office:
2. Name of Watershed & HUC(s):
3. Approximate number of acres:
4. Primary agricultural land use:
5. Primary Resource Concerns/Problems in this watershed:
6. Amount of EQIP funds (in percent or flat dollar amount) the LWG will commit to this watershed initiative from their initial allocation.
7. Is the LWG willing to sustain this effort/commitment for up to three years, if necessary, to achieve measurable improvements?
8. What activities, benchmarks, etc. will be established to monitor/measure/document existing conditions and improvements in the identified resource concerns?
9. Will recommended/contracted practices address multiple resource concerns? What are some of the practices that will be utilized?
10. Local Outreach: What efforts will be made at the local level to inform potential applicants about this initiative and encourage their participation?
11. Do you anticipate interest/participation will be high (>50% of eligible producers), moderate (25-50%), or low (<25%)?
12. Partnerships: Are there other federal, state, local, private organization entities that want to be involved and will contribute financial and/or technical assistance or are there existing programs/projects in the watershed that this initiative will complement? Please describe.

The FO can edit this worksheet to provide additional space.

FY 2009 EQIP Small Acreage Initiative Proposal

The Small Acreage Initiative is intended to provide assistance to small acreage operators with fewer resource concerns and a limited income. The applicants sometimes have difficulty competing for EQIP funds. The STC will set aside funds for this initiative.

Requirements-

- Household income of \$60,000/yr. or less.
- Maximum contract amount of \$10,000 per operation.
- Ranking criteria will be the same as regular EQIP.
- LWG must commit to setting aside a portion of the F.O. allocation.

Recommendations needed from D.C-

- Will this initiative cover the entire F.O. area or just a specific portion?
- Acreage limit for each land use, e.g. irrigated crop, rangeland, etc.